



# Comprehensive Plan

## March 2023

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# What is a food forest?

Forests are ecosystems with a diversity of plants, animals, and fungi. They were designed by nature to have perfect balance. A food forest is a version of this in which the different, balanced components produce food. A food forest typically consists of seven layers, the uppermost layer being the canopy layer. The canopy layer consists of tall trees — typically large fruit and nut trees. Between the tall canopy layer trees, there is a layer of low growing, typically dwarf fruit trees. Nestled between all the small trees are the shrubs – which are well represented by currants and berries. Filling the remaining space are the herbaceous layer, these are the culinary and medicinal herbs, companion plants, bee-forage plants and poultry forage plants. Any remaining space is occupied by ground cover plants. These form a living mulch that protects the soil, reduces water loss to evaporation, and prevents weeds growing. We can still go a level deeper to the rhizosphere, or root zone, the underground level which is occupied by all our root crops, such as potatoes, carrots, ginger, yacon, etc. While that might seem like a lot of plants in one space, we still have one more to fill, the upright vertical space. This is filled by climbers and vines, which can be run up trellises, arbors, fences, trees or any other vertical support. This category includes grapes, climbing beans, many berries, kiwi fruit, climbing peas, chokos and many other species that love to climb.

See attached packet for a more detailed look at what a food forest is and what it can do for the public. [GBFFPacket.pdf](#)

## LAYERS OF A FOOD FOREST

### 1. Canopy

Large Fruit & Nut Trees

### 2. Low Tree Layer

Dwarf Fruit Trees

### 3. Shrub Layer

Berry Bushes & useful Shrubs

### 4. Herbaceous

Flowers, Herbs & Vegetables

### 5. Soil Surface

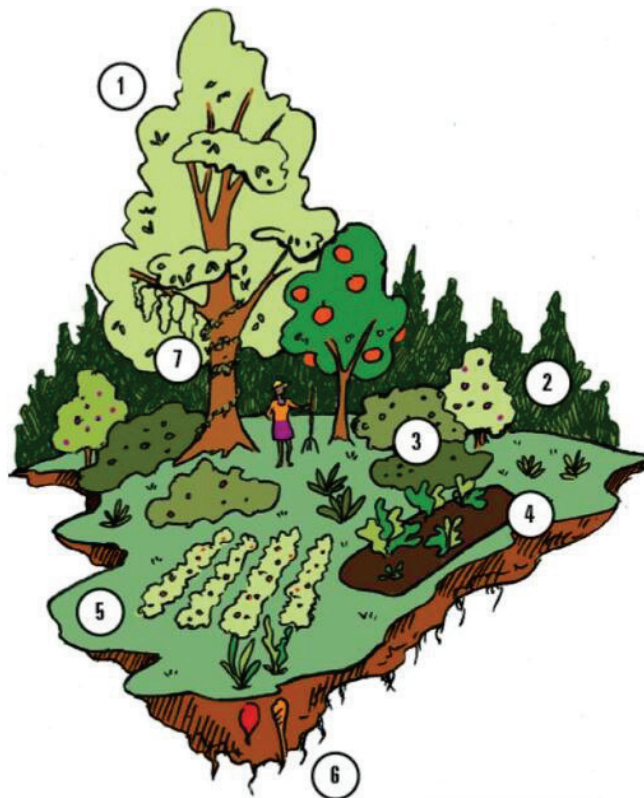
Low-Growing Ground Covers

### 6. Root Layer

Fungi and Root Vegetables

### 7. Vertical Layer

Vines & Espaliers



# Planting areas and timeline



## Description of zones and size

Zone 1 - Current edible walkway size is about 6500 sq ft. With the addition the size would increase to 11000 sq ft. Full sun.

Zone 2 - East side, around 10000 sq ft. North side is shaded by tree cover but good south exposure on the southside.

Zone 3 - Old Playground, 18000 sq ft. Only 5500 sq ft of sun to partial sun. Possible secure compost site, nursery, classroom or picnic area.



Zone 4 - Old Parking lot, 8000 sq ft. Full sun, a few small pines.

Zone 5 - South side of pond. 19000 sq ft. Mixed light. Northeast of pond 11500 sq ft. Midday and afternoon sun.

Total = 77500 sq ft or 1.75 acres

# Timeline

## Spring 2023

- Zone 1 - Thin and organize the current edible walkway.
- Zone 2 - Plan, and plant the East side.
  -  Zone 2 Prep & Plan
  -  Zone 2 Plant & Grant list

## Summer 2023

- Build community boards and social media accounts.

## Fall 2023


- Finish planting Zone 2 if need be.
- Add signage. Must get approval from the city. Plant signage will be added within 6 months of planting a new Zone.
- Start a propagation station. Create a small area to grow cuttings and keep replacement plants to fill voids.
- Community Compost. Either at current neighborhood garden or alley on the eastside

## 2024 & Beyond

- TBD till we know the cities plan

## Plants

Attached below is an ever growing plant list. We plan to expand the details and to add photos as we build.

 Food Forest plants

With the list we will be growing a QR code system to help people to identify. We will also create a pictorial guide on a powerpoint that is available online via a QR code that can go on outdoor signs that have all of our plants we will include in the food forest. This will help gardeners not pull good plants and the public to know what to pick.

We will be working with the Parks Dept. to finalize an approved planting for each zone.



## Signage & Community Board

Signage will be needed to create a food forest that everyone can enjoy. Signs will be placed next to the food with a QR code linking to more information. NWTC sustainability dept will host the QR code. We think showing the food in its harvestable state would help the public. Below are a few examples.



A community board would also be a great place to have a map of the park and to educate people about the plants in the park. This could be a good partnership with the ship to talk about the native swale planting and maybe a bit of history of the area. Attached to the board could be a chalkboard which indicates what is in harvest or coming into harvest.



# Maintenance

## Goal

Our approach to maintenance will be heavy on the front end. A thick layer of wood chips during planting will keep many weeds at bay. This will be followed in the summer with 1-3 days a month of weeding until we have reached ground cover. Each zone will be broken down to specific areas in which we can make a more targeted approach to maintenance. We will have seasonal tasks with man hours attached to each.

In June and October we will review the progress and adapt the plan accordingly.



# 2023 Schedule of Maintenance for Zone 1

## Asparagus patch

Spring - Cut old plants and compost

    Weed and mulch bare spots. 4 hrs

    Harvest at 8-10 inches. Snap or cut. 2 times a week. 5 mins

Summer - Weed. 20 minutes monthly

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch. Collect seeds for next year. 1 hr monthly

Winter - Nothing

[Growing Asparagus in Wisconsin](#)

[Asparagus Beetle – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

## Raspberry patch

Spring - Weed and mulch bare spots. Look for bindweed and pull the whole root. Divide and move regrowth. 6 hrs

Summer - Weed. Mostly bull thistle, bring gloves and pull after nice rain. 3 hrs monthly

    Harvest weekly 1 hr for the patch.

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch. 2 hrs monthly

Winter - Nothing

[Growing Raspberries in Wisconsin \(A1610\)](#)

## Elderberry patch

Spring - Weed and mulch bare spots, pull suckers and pot or replant. 6 hrs monthly

Summer - Weed. Mostly bull thistle, bring gloves and pull after nice rain. 2 hrs monthly

Harvest weekly 1 hr for the patch.

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch. 2 hrs monthly

Winter - Trim dead or damaged. Cuttings for spring propagation. 2 hrs

[Growing Currants, Gooseberries, and Elderberries in Wisconsin \(A1960\)](#)

## Cherry patch

Spring - Weed and mulch bare spots, pull suckers and pot or replant. 4 hrs

    Harvest weekly 15 mins a bush.

Summer - Weed. Less than 10 minutes a month the previous 3 years.

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch. 2 hrs monthly

Winter - Trim dead or damaged. 10 mins a bush.

## Currant patch

Spring - Weed and mulch bare spots. Trim back seating area. 4 hrs

Summer - Weed. 2 hr monthly

    Harvest 1 hrs weekly

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch.



Winter - Trim dead or damaged. 10 mins a bush.

[Growing Currants, Gooseberries, and Elderberries in Wisconsin \(A1960\)](#)

## Natives

Spring - Weed and mulch bare spots. Pull and replant overgrowth. 8 hrs

Summer - Weed. 8 hours monthly

Harvest whenever

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch. Collect seeds for next year. 6 hrs monthly

Winter - Nothing

## Herbs

Spring - Weed and mulch bare spots. Plant new herbs. Pull out natives and replant. 4 hrs

Summer - Weed. Less than 1 hr monthly

Harvest whenever

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch. 1 hr monthly

Winter - Nothing

## Trees

Fig & Hardy Almond

Spring - Unwrap protection. Weed and mulch bare spots. 2 hrs

Summer - Weed. Less than 1 hr a month

Fall - Weed. Assess mulch. Insulate for winter. 2 hrs

Winter - Trim. 1 hr

## Sunchokes

Spring - Pull as many tubers as possible. Eat, ferment, and donate. 6 hrs

Find the 3 Honeyberries and cage. 1 hr

Assess Mulberry

Revision some of the space.

Summer - Weed and water new plants if needed. 4 hrs monthly


## Overall Zone 1

Keep plants from crowding paths.

Add signage to the whole garden. Quick Signs have shown interest in help. Talk to the city.

Make sure seating areas are cleared. Look into planting some shade for each of the three sitting areas.

More detailed document

 Maintenance Schedule



# New site preparation

## Step One:

### Responsibilities

**City** - Review and approve food forest plan and installation. Approve, install (or approve of contractor to install), and maintain signs. Provide guidance to program groups on creating City approved comprehensive Food Forest plans for all phases (provide them with examples and feedback). Deliver wood chips. Mow lawn that isn't food forest, mulched, or native grass areas. Prune and maintain large overstory trees especially if they are damaged or pose a safety risk. Remove large trees that are dead or posing a safety risk. Remove or "chip and leave" larger fallen branches (3" diameter +). Not spraying chemicals or pesticides in or near food forest or native grasses area. Turn water on in the spring and turn it off in the fall. Assist the volunteers with appraisal and assessment of maintenance plans each year. Be main contact for food forest volunteers with other city and brown county municipal offices and contractors in regards to Food Forest matters (E.G. Please dump wood chips in a specific location). Have Kaurie design the space.

**Volunteers** - Develop a comprehensive maintenance plan for the city to review and approve. Review and update the comprehensive maintenance plan for the city to review and approve yearly. Escalate safety concerns in Seymour Green Commons to the city as needed. Contact the city to turn on and turn off water access. Contact the city or other city approved group to request woodchip or mulch be delivered. Coordinate and get approval for any major changes to the food forest such as additional zones. Create the info for the signs for the city to review and approve. Coordinate with affiliates to ensure that sign QR codes are up to date and working. Coordinate volunteer work days to accomplish basic maintenance tasks in the food forest. Mulch areas that need to be mulched. Pick up trash and keep the food forest tidy. Plant the food forest. Water the food forest. Hand Weed the food forest. Manage the food forest compost piles (food forest material such as leaves, branches, and pruning clippings only, no food waste from community allowed). Prune and maintain food forest plants that are below the canopy level. Harvest food forest plants that are below the canopy level and get the harvest to its export destination. Spray [USDA Organic Pesticides](#) and post on the community board and social media what we have applied and when for transparency. Be the contact for the city if there are food forest related complaints and address said complaints.

## Step Two:

### Responsibilities

**City** - Mow area staked by the volunteers as low as possible in preparation for them to cover the area with cardboard and heavily mulch it to kill the grass there. Provide piles of wood

chip/mulch for the volunteers to cover the space with. Remove dead or dangerous trees at the locations.

**Volunteers** - Stake the area to be mowed by the city. Lay down the cardboard. Water the cardboard. Heavily mulch (2" +) the area. Plant the food forest. Water the food forest. Weed the food forest. Remove trash and keep the food forest tidy.

## Harvesting

The food will be harvested when it is ready. The public will get the first opportunity to pick what they want. Whenever the park is open the food forest will be open. When we notice any spoilable food not being picked we will contact our list of groups. The only food of concern are the fruit and nut trees. All of the berry bushes and such the birds will pick clean.

We currently have 15 black plastic crates and a four wheeled cart. Access to a commercial kitchen at Trinity Lutheran has also been given.

## Vision

Our hope is to build a sustainable food forest system at Seymour Park. This can work as a template to help NEW Leaf Foods create a grand plan for Brown Co. We think we have a great opportunity to work with the city to create an amazing master plan for Seymour. A park that will blend the beauty of the native swale with the abundance of a food forest and the functionality of the stormwater ponds. As food prices continue to rise and access to whole foods is limited in this neighborhood the food forest could help a bit of the burden.

We plan to program the park, either through local groups or city parkies. These events can be anything from educational walks, planting days, cider making, canning classes or chefs tables with local restaurants. Building the community through food will be a great way to become neighbors again. This neighborhood is one of the most diverse in Green Bay and there is no better way to bring people together than food.

The key to success will be hinged on a great partnership between the city and volunteers. A small group consisting of a master gardener, an arborist, and a community gardener will lead this project while working with New Leaf Foods. We have had many great conversations in the last 4 months with groups around our community. There seems to be support coming from all over. With the current timeline we have proposed it will give us a good gauge on where we are with volunteers. Overall we have been met with a lot of excitement for this project and can't wait to build something that will provide nutrients for generations to come.

## Outdoor Classroom

An outdoor classroom in the food forest would give local schools and other organizations a place to educate. A homeschool group and a teacher from Aldo have already reached out in using our food forest to teach. This space could also be used as just a gathering space or even things such as live music.



## Food Exports

The only food that will be a pest problem will be the larger fruits. So picking apples, plums, peach, pears, and paw paw are the bigger problems. These will be picked by the volunteers, delivered or set out for pick up. We are 3-5 years away from any of this food hitting the ground.

Public  
Local food pantries  
Wildlife Sanctuary

## Public Input

NEW Leaf Foods  
Seymour  
Tank  
Shipyard

# Implementation/Budget

We currently have \$7314.46 in our account from the edible walkway built many years ago.

Community Development Block Grant

Neighborhood Grants

ARPA funding

Green Bay Packers

Trinity Lutheran - donation and kitchen

Norbinte brothers

Augustine Stewardship

## Volunteers

Green Bay Conservation Corps

NEW Leaf

UW- Ext

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

UWGB

Listed below are examples of other food forests

[Photo Examples](#)

[Design Examples](#)